

8. (Amended) The near infrared fluorescent contrast agent of claim 1, which is for tumor imaging.

9. (Amended) The near infrared fluorescent contrast agent of claim 1, which is for angiography.

18. (Amended) The sodium salt of claim 10, comprising 4 or more sulfonic acid groups in a molecule.

19. (Amended) The sodium salt of claim 10, comprising 10 or less sulfonic acid groups in a molecule.

20. (Amended) The sodium salt of claim 10, comprising 8 or less sulfonic acid groups in a molecule.

21. (Amended) A near infrared fluorescent contrast agent comprising the sodium salt of claim 10.